

Please amend the claims as follows:

In claim 24, line 1, please change "~~claim 17~~" to --claim 90--.

In claim 26, line 2, please change "~~claim 17~~" to --~~claim 90~~--.

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

C¹

70. (Once Amended) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to amino acids 2 to 200 in SEQ ID NO:8[;
wherein % identity is determined using the Bestfit program with parameters that calculate % identity over the full length of amino acids 2 to 200 in SEQ ID NO:8 and that allow gaps of up to 5% of the total number of residues in amino acids 2 to 200 in SEQ ID NO:8].

[Please add the following new claims:]

Sub G¹

--90. An isolated ~~protein~~ comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to amino acids 2 to 311 in SEQ ID NO:4.

C²

91. The protein of claim 90, comprising amino acids 2 to 311 in SEQ ID NO:4.

92. The protein of claim 90, wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 311 in SEQ ID NO:4.

93. The protein of claim 92, comprising amino acids 1 to 311 in SEQ ID NO:4.

94. The protein of claim 90, which is produced by a host cell.

95. A method for producing the protein of claim 90, comprising:

- (a) culturing a host cell under conditions suitable to produce the protein; and
- (b) recovering the protein from the cell culture.

96. The protein of claim 90, which comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

97. A composition comprising the protein of claim 90 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

98. An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the mature amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97733.

99. The protein of claim 98, comprising the mature amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97733.

100. The protein of claim 98, wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to the complete amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97733.

101. The protein of claim 100, comprising the complete amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97733.

102. The protein of claim 98, which is produced by a host cell.

103. A method for producing the protein of claim 98, comprising:

- (a) culturing a host cell under conditions suitable to produce the protein; and
- (b) recovering the protein from the cell culture.

104. The protein of claim 98, which comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

105. A composition comprising the protein of claim 98 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

106. An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) amino acids 62 to 102 in SEQ ID NO:4;
- (b) amino acids 226 to 259 in SEQ ID NO:4; and
- (c) amino acids 197 to 308 in SEQ ID NO:4.

Q2
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G3

107. The protein of claim 106, wherein said amino acid sequence is (a).

108. The protein of claim 106, wherein said amino acid sequence is (b).

109. The protein of claim 106, wherein said amino acid sequence is (c).

110. The protein of claim 106, which is produced by a host cell.

111. A method for producing the protein of claim 106, comprising:

- (a) culturing a host cell under conditions suitable to produce the protein; and
- (b) recovering the protein from the cell culture.

112. The protein of claim 106, which comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

113. A composition comprising the protein of claim 106 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Sub 21
~~114. An isolated protein comprising 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:4.~~

~~115. The protein of claim 114 comprising 30 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:4.~~

C1 Sub 22
~~116. The protein of claim 115 comprising 50 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:4.~~

117. The protein of claim 114, which is produced by a host cell.

118. A method for producing the protein of claim 114, comprising:

- (a) culturing a host cell under conditions suitable to produce the protein; and
- (b) recovering the protein from the cell culture.

119. The protein of claim 114, which comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

120. A composition comprising the protein of claim 114 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

121. An isolated protein comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

wherein said protein has an activity selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) lactose binding activity; and
- (b) binding activity for an antibody having specificity for a protein consisting of the complete amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

122. The protein of claim 121, wherein said protein has lactose binding activity.

123. The protein of claim 121, wherein said protein has binding activity for an antibody having specificity for a protein consisting of the complete amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

124. The protein of claim 121, which is produced by a host cell.

125. A method for producing the protein of claim 121, comprising:

- (a) culturing a host cell under conditions suitable to produce the protein; and
- (b) recovering the protein from the cell culture.

126. The protein of claim 121, which comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

127. A composition comprising the protein of claim 121 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.